

beginning enough to overawe the authorities and to prevent any attempt at resistance. The great majority came from the counties adjacent to the city, but representatives from the East Anglian peasantry now in arms, from the corporation of Oxford, and from many of the other counties and towns then in a state of rebellion, were present to support the leaders and to push their claims on the captive Court.

Thursday was a busy day for the new masters of London. The first wish of the city prentices was to be revenged on John of G-aunt. The old quarrel between the city and the Duke, which had broken out four years back on the remarkable occasion of Wycliffe's trial at St. Paul's, was not likely to be forgotten. The Savoy had then been spared at the instance of Bishop Courtenay, though the mob that rushed to burn it had got half way down the Strand on the road to riot. The proud city had been forced to humble itself before the Duke for that breach of the peace. Now the whole country was up in arms, and the rebels all over the kingdom, in Yorkshire, Leicestershire, and the home counties alike, were at open war against John of Gaunt, destroying his property and seeking the lives of his servants. The Kentish men had sworn that they would take \* no King called John.' Their first cry as they poured into the city was \* To the Savoy, to the Savoy !' The men of London appear to have begun the attack, but the bands of Kent and Essex soon joined them in the work of destruction. Peasants and prentices rushed out by the western gates, swept along the river-bank, burst into the Palace, and threw the rich furniture and treasures out of doors and windows. In the street men with axes hacked the furniture to pieces as fast as it was thrown out to them, while others seized and threw it into the river. The noticeable circumstance, distinguishing this act of destruction from almost all others that took place this summer, was the prohibition of plundering. The place was accursed; everything that belonged to the Duke was to be destroyed. As it was the first outrage after the entry into London, the rebels were perhaps still under the influence of the promise given to Walworth at the time of their admission that they would steal nothing. ' We are no thieves/ they cried as they broke everything to